

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8530

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 6330

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, PT, IO, ID, PO

SUBJECT: TIMOR ISSUE AT UNGA

REF: JAKARTA 12045

1. FOREIGN MINISTER MEDEIROS FERREIRA WAS QUERIED ON TIMOR QUESTION DURING BRIEF GENERAL PRESS INTERVIEW SEP 14. FOREIGN MINISTER RESPONDED THAT "NO ENTITY AUTHORIZED BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, OR IN ANY MANNER REPRESENTING THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT, HAS COMMITTED THE GOP TO THE RECOGNITION OF THE POSSIBLE RECOGNITION OF THE INTEGRATION OF TIMOR INTO INDONESIA. EVEN GENERAL MORAIS DA SILVA NEVER SIGNED ANYTHING INDICATING RECOGNITION BY PORTUGAL OF THE INTEGRATION OF TIMOR INTO INDONESIA. PORTUGAL BELIEVES AT THIS MOMENT THAT THE PROBLEM OF TIMOR IS WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND WE ARE DISPOSED TO ACCEPT A CONSENSUS THAT MAY COME FROM THE UNITED NATIONS, AS LONG AS THIS CONSENSUS RESPECTS THE PRINCIPLES OF OUR DECOLONIZATION POLICIES."

2. COMMENT: GOP FON MINISTRY CONTINUES TO HARBOR RESENTMENT OVER AF CHIEF OF STAFF MORAIS DA SILVA'S PERSONAL DIPLOMACY IN TIMOR QUESTION. TO A CERTAIN EXTENT THIS SERVES TO STIFFEN THEIR POLICY. WHILE THEY
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ARE UNLIKELY TO MAKE A MAJOR ISSUE OUT OF TIMOR THEY

ARE UNLIKELY TO DO MUCH TO EASE GOI'S -- OR MORAIS DA SILVA'S DISCOMFITURE.

3. APPROACHES TO EUROPEAN FRIENDS OF PORTUGAL, PARTICULARLY THE DUTCH WHOSE FOREIGN MINISTER IS DUE HERE ON VISIT TOMORROW COULD PROVE USEFUL. ALSO USEFUL WOULD BE INCREASED CONTACT AT FOREIGN MINISTRY LEVEL, POSSIBLY EVEN OVERTURES LEADING TO REESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS. THIS COULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY NEGOTIATIONS ON ASSISTANCE TO PORTUGUESE REFUGEES STILL IN TIMOR.

4. PORTUGUESE FONMIN MORAIS DA SILVA WILL BE GOING TO UNGA TOWARD END OF MONTH. IT STRIKES US THAT THIS MIGHT BE A GOOD TIME FOR DIRECT CONTACT BETWEEN DIPLOMATS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES. WE THINK THAT WITH PROPER HANDLING GOP COULD BE INDUCED TO MODERATE ITS TONE IN POSSIBLE DEBATE, BUT IT IS UNLIKELY THEY COULD RIGHT NOW PUBLICLY ACCEPT INTEGRATION.
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